

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated October 17, 2005, claims 1-26 were pending. Of those claims, claims 22-26 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-12 and 14-21. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Kitamura.

In this Amendment, claim 13 has been canceled, without prejudice. Applicants, therefore, note that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been rendered moot. Furthermore, the present Amendment does not generate any new matter or any new issue for that matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully solicit entry of the present Amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Tomoki Tanida

Recognition under 37 C.F.R. 10.9(b)

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 SAB:TT
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: November 28, 2005

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as our correspondence address.**